

52-A

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

March 24, 2009

**ASSEMBLY BILL 12 - CALIFORNIA FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS ACT**

On October 7, 2008, President George W. Bush signed into law H.R. 6893. This landmark federal bill addresses the needs of thousands of children in foster and kinship care by promoting permanent families through relative guardianship and adoptions; and gives the State the option of using federal Title IV-E funds to provide foster care, legal guardianship and adoption assistance to youth up to 21 years of age. While some provisions in this bill are optional, other provisions are mandatory.

On my October 21, 2008 motion, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Children and Family Services to explore the feasibility of seeking State authority to implement the provisions of H.R. 6893 for children under Los Angeles County Supervision; and implementing the provisions of H.R. 6893 outside of Los Angeles County's Title IV-E Child Welfare Capped Allocation Demonstration Project. Those efforts are currently underway.

On December 1, 2008, Assemblyman Jim Beall and Assembly Speaker Karen Bass introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 12, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act, which seeks to ensure that California opts in to both the kinship guardianship and age extension provisions of H.R. 6893. The State has begun the process of developing plans to introduce enabling legislation early in the 2009 legislative session and to assess those elements of H.R. 6893 that can be implemented by regulatory changes. AB 12 appears to be drawing widespread support, lauding the age extension of foster care benefits which could begin by October 2010. Improved outcomes through age extension will not only benefit the youth, but also be a wise investment in California where state research shows one in four former foster youth face incarceration within two years of leaving the system; and one in five become homeless within a year and a half.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Children and Family Services to support Assembly Bill 12 in concept; and report back in 30 days with an analysis of the bill and its impacts to Los Angeles County.

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s/motions/assemblybill12

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**MOTION**

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

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